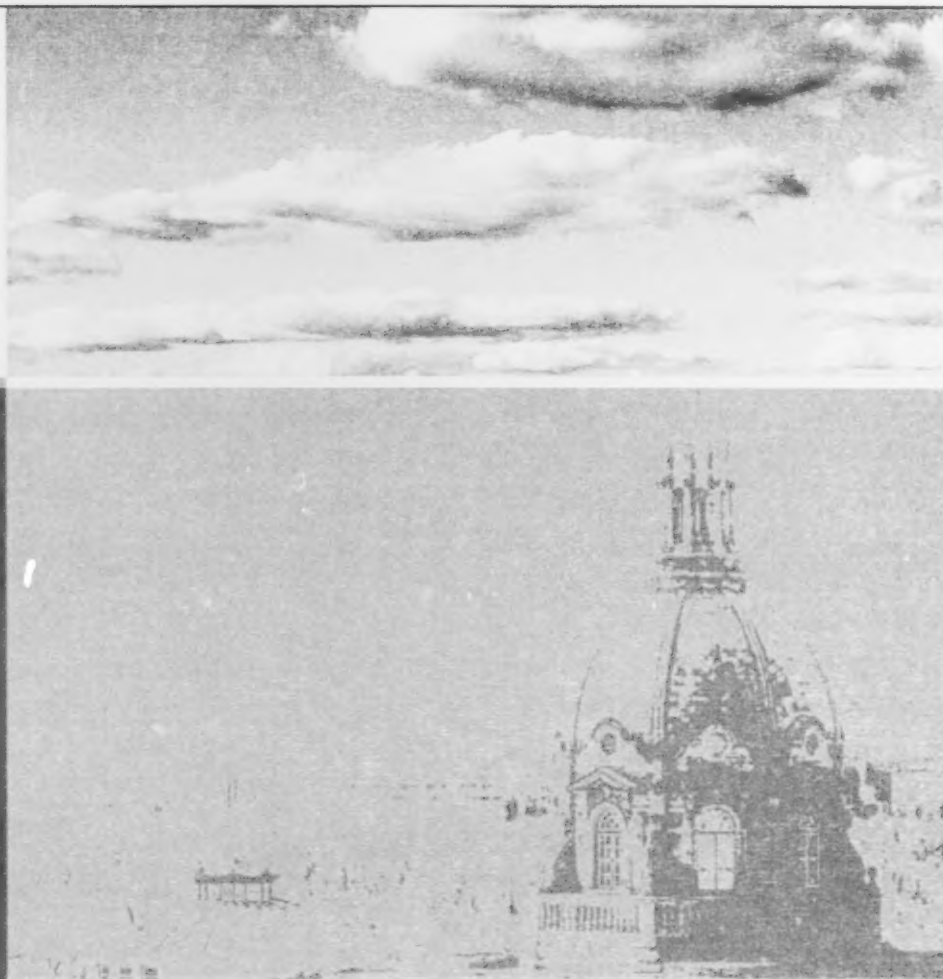




Village of Kinuso

Dissolution Study

May 2009

Alberta Municipal Affairs
© Government of Alberta 2009

ISBN 978-0-7785-7951-9 (printed version)

Printed in Canada

What is municipal dissolution?

Dissolution is a legal process under the province's *Municipal Government Act*. This process occurs when a municipality gives up its status as an incorporated municipality to become part of a bordering municipality.

The Village of Kinuso (the village) is an incorporated municipality. This means that within its defined boundaries, the village council has the power to pass bylaws, the responsibility to provide services to residents, and the authority to collect property taxes and other revenues to support those services.

If Kinuso were to dissolve, it would no longer be a municipality, but would become a hamlet in the Municipal District of Big Lakes (M.D.). The M.D. council would then be responsible for governing, serving, and taxing the residents of Kinuso in addition to the population that it already serves.

What is a dissolution study?

A dissolution study is a process, which assists Alberta's Minister of Municipal Affairs in determining if a proposed dissolution should proceed.

The dissolution study process for the Village of Kinuso includes this dissolution report, a public meeting, and a non-binding vote on the question of dissolution.

The Village of Kinuso dissolution report attempts to highlight what residents could expect to happen if their village were to dissolve. It looks at the municipal functions, services, and financial situation in the Village of Kinuso.

The report compares how the village provides services and how the M.D. would provide those services to Kinuso residents if the village were to dissolve and become a hamlet in the M.D. of Big Lakes.

The areas that are examined in this report include the possible changes to service levels, council representation, administration, and municipal finances.

Alberta Municipal Affairs obtained the information for the report from the councils and administrations of the village and M.D., and from provincial records.

The dissolution report, feedback gathered at the public meeting, and the results of the non-binding vote assist the Minister in deciding whether or not to recommend to Cabinet that the village be dissolved.

Why consider a dissolution study?

A dissolution study was conducted for the Village of Kinuso in 1997, as a result of a request from the village council. The Minister of the day decided not to recommend dissolution at that time.

In a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs dated September 17, 2008, the council of the Village of Kinuso requested a dissolution study be conducted.

The Minister initiated a dissolution study as required under section 130(2)(a) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

What is the existing situation in Kinuso?

Kinuso was incorporated as a village December 31, 1949. It is located north of Highway 2, approximately 40 kilometers west of Slave Lake. The M.D. of Big Lakes is the village's rural neighbour.

According to Ministry records, the village's population was 219 in 2008, was 231 in 2003, and was 258 in 1998. There was a decrease in population of five per cent in the past five years and an overall decrease in population of 15 per cent since 1998.

Residents elect five councillors to govern the village. The village council appoints the mayor annually at its organizational meeting.

What is the financial situation in Kinuso?

This financial summary covers the calendar years from 2003 to 2007. The information is compiled using the audited financial statements and the financial information returns submitted annually to Municipal Affairs, and certain records provided by the Alberta Capital Finance Authority.

Operating Fund Activities

The following table summarizes the village's annual operating fund results as reported in the village's annual audited financial statements.

Year	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Net Revenue (Expenditure)
2003	\$407,861	\$418,360	(\$10,499)
2004	\$368,221	\$382,047	(\$13,826)
2005	\$505,782	\$373,570	\$132,212
2006	\$450,427	\$396,269	\$54,158
2007	\$668,160	\$725,050	(\$56,890)

At December 31, 2007, the overall operating fund surplus was \$241,387. This figure represents financial assets that are available to the village to offset current and future liabilities.

Reserves

Reserves help a municipality plan and pay for future projects or emergency repairs. If reserves are not sufficient, a municipality may have to access funding from other sources such as taxation or by borrowing.

At December 31, 2007, the village council had allocated funds of \$62,540 to an operating reserve.

Debt

In 2002, the village borrowed \$100,000 for the village's share of the cost of a new sewage lagoon. The village pays the annual debenture

payment of \$7,823 from municipal property tax revenue.

The amount of debt remaining as of December 31, 2007, was \$89,725. The debt will be repaid in full in 2027.

Equalized Property Tax Assessment

Equalized property assessment is a means of comparing property wealth among municipalities. The assessed values of all properties in Alberta are brought to a common level, which is used as a basis for cost-sharing programs such as education funding. This value is calculated by Alberta Municipal Affairs.

For 2008, the equalized property assessment of all taxable properties in Kinuso was \$7,944,107. For 2004, it was \$5,704,916. This is an increase of 39 per cent from 2004 to 2008.

The village's assessment base is comprised of approximately 68 per cent residential and 32 per cent non-residential assessment.

Municipal Property Tax

The municipal property tax levy is the amount of money required from the property assessment base to support the village's day-to-day operations. Other revenue, such as user fees and grants, support the village's operating costs. Municipalities also levy property tax for education purposes and for the senior foundation.

According to the assessment and mill rates in the village's tax rate bylaws, in 2004, the municipal property tax levy was \$118,120 and in 2008, it was \$163,760. Between 2004 and 2008, the village's expenditures, funded from municipal property taxes, increased by \$45,640, which is approximately 39 per cent.

Tables 1 and 2 indicate the 2008 property taxes, including requisitions, levied on sample residential and non-residential properties in Kinuso. That amount is compared with the property taxes that would have been levied on those same properties if Kinuso had been a hamlet in the M.D. of Big Lakes in 2008.

If dissolution occurs, the M.D.'s tax rates would apply to Kinuso. In addition, a special tax levy could be placed each year on Kinuso properties to cover the annual debenture payment of \$7,283, until the debt is paid in full in 2027.

Based on the assessed value of property, as reported in the village's 2008 tax rate bylaw, the special tax levy rate in 2008 would have been 0.851 mills.

What would remain the same if the village dissolves?

911 Service

911 dispatch services would continue to be provided out of Grande Prairie. The village's and the M.D.'s service agreements would be consolidated into one.

Local subscribers to TELUS would continue to pay a monthly fee for 911 service on their telephone bill.

Ambulance Service

Alberta Health Services would continue to provide ground ambulance services.

Community Organizations in Kinuso

Should dissolution occur and Kinuso becomes a hamlet in the Municipal District of Big Lakes, Kinuso community groups, their volunteer membership, and the work they do would not be required to change.

Electrical Power and Natural Gas

Direct Energy and ATCO Electric would continue to provide electrical power services and the Swan River Natural Gas Co-op Ltd. would continue to provide natural gas services to Kinuso.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

The M.D. of Big Lakes is the operating partner of the Big Lakes FCSS regional program. FCSS programs and services would continue as currently provided.

RCMP Service

Policing would continue to be provided by the RCMP detachment located in the hamlet of Faust.

Safety Codes Inspection Services

Inspection services would be accessed, as they are now, through an agency providing inspection services on behalf of the province.

Streetlights

Streetlights would continue to be owned and operated by ATCO. The cost of power to operate the lights would continue to be paid from municipal property taxes.

What would change if Kinuso dissolves?

The M.D. of Big Lakes provides services in the hamlets of Enilda, Faust, Grouard, and Jossard. Kinuso residents would receive services at the same level as in the other hamlets.

Potential changes include the following:

Assets and Liabilities

Financial assets include such things as cash and short-term deposits, accounts receivable, and land held for resale. Additional village assets include such things as village owned buildings and public works equipment.

Financial liabilities include such things as long-term debt, deferred revenue, and accounts payable.

According to the village's audited financial statements at December 31, 2007, the village had financial assets of \$405,558 and financial liabilities of \$191,356. This indicates that the village had sufficient financial assets to meet its ongoing financial commitments.

Upon dissolution, the village assets and liabilities would transfer to the M.D. of Big Lakes. The M.D. would be required to keep a full accounting of all cash received at dissolution and of any proceeds from the sale of Kinuso assets.

The transferred funds could only be used to reduce liabilities previously incurred by the Village of Kinuso or to fund projects in Kinuso. This separate accounting would continue until the funds were depleted.

Business Licenses

The village has a bylaw that requires businesses to pay a business license fee.

Upon dissolution, the Kinuso bylaw would be in effect until the M.D. repeals the bylaw. The M.D. does not license businesses.

Bylaws, Policies, and Bylaw Enforcement

Currently, the village has various enforcement bylaws in place to address animal control, bullying, business licenses, snow mobiles, snow removal from sidewalks, and a village curfew. The village also has a policy manual.

The village does not actively enforce village bylaws. The RCMP has copies of the bylaws and uses them when necessary.

Upon dissolution, existing village bylaws and policies would remain in force until the M.D. either amends, repeals, or replaces them.

The M.D. would review all Kinuso bylaws. It is most likely that the M.D.'s bylaws and policies would eventually replace those of Kinuso. The M.D.'s enforcement bylaws address animal control, noise, speed limits, and off-highway vehicles.

The M.D. would use its own peace officers and bylaw enforcement officers for bylaw enforcement in Kinuso.

Capital Projects

At this time, the village has no capital projects planned.

Upon dissolution, the M.D. of Big Lakes would undertake an infrastructure assessment of Kinuso. Necessary capital projects would be identified and included in the M.D.'s Multi-Year Capital Infrastructure Plan.

Community Recreation Facilities

Community groups operate recreational facilities located on village-owned land. The Central Lesser Slave Lake Agricultural Society operates the complex, curling rink, and indoor natural-ice skating rink, the Kinuso and District Recreation Board operates the indoor hockey arena, and the Spruce Point Park Association operates the kitchen and the gatehouse at the Spruce Point Park campground.

Upon dissolution, ownership of village property would transfer to the M.D. of Big Lakes. The M.D. would enter into discussions with these community groups regarding future activities. The current verbal arrangements may be replaced with written agreements.

Community Organization Funding

The Kinuso and District Recreation Board operates and maintains the indoor hockey arena located on village property. The board is funded on a per capita basis by the village and the M.D.

The M.D. council encourages and supports the development of recreation programs and facilities through recreation boards.

Upon dissolution, according to the M.D.'s Recreation Services Policy, one group in Kinuso would be provided with operating money in exchange for managing recreation services in the area.

Individual community groups would be able to apply to the M.D. council for operating or capital funding on a case by case basis.

Community Organization Insurance

Currently, the village has a number of community groups listed on its insurance policy as "additional named insured" (ANIs). Each group pays the insurance premium cost.

The M.D. has a different insurance provider than the village. Upon dissolution, village assets would be added to the M.D.'s insurance policy.

Kinuso community groups could apply to the M.D. council to be included as ANIs on the M.D.'s insurance policy. If added, ANIs would be billed for the insurance premium cost.

Council Representation and Meetings

The village council consists of five members elected at-large from the village residents. The village council appoints the mayor annually at the organizational meeting. The mayor and councillors are appointed to boards and committees in the community.

The village council meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.

The M.D. of Big Lakes council consists of nine members elected from nine electoral wards. The M.D. council appoints the reeve annually at the organizational meeting from amongst the members of council.

The M.D. council meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the M.D. Administration Building located on Highway #2 west of High Prairie.

Upon dissolution, Kinuso would become part of ward four in the M.D. The ward four councillor, Ken Killeen, would represent Kinuso residents as well as the residents from the rest of the ward.

Prior to the next municipal election, the M.D. would consider adjusting electoral boundaries to ensure an equitable representation between the nine electoral wards.

Kinuso residents would be eligible for election to the M.D.'s council. Big Lakes councillors would be appointed to boards and committees in the community.

Disaster Services

Currently, the village has a Municipal Emergency Response Plan dated July 1991. A village resident acts as the village's Emergency Management Services director. Kinuso is also included in the M.D.'s Municipal Emergency Response Plan.

Upon dissolution, disaster services would be provided by the M.D. The Emergency Management Services director for the M.D. is the Chief Administrative Officer.

Electrical Power Franchise Agreement

The village has a franchise agreement with ATCO Electric. Revenues from the franchise fee of 3.5 per cent are placed in general revenues. The fee may be negotiated annually.

Upon dissolution, agreements with the village would become agreements with the M.D. The M.D.'s current practice is not to charge franchise fees.

Employees and Administration

All municipal councils are required to appoint a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Since 1998, the village council has appointed a CAO through contracted services. These services are currently based out of Ponoka. In addition to contracted services, Kinuso has three employees.

Upon dissolution, Big Lakes would provide administrative services to Kinuso residents.

Fire and Rescue Services

The village owns and insures the village fire hall and village fire truck. The volunteer fire department provides fire protection service in the village. All costs are paid from general revenues.

The M.D. operates a fire truck and rescue van out of the village fire hall. The M.D.'s fire chief supervises the Kinuso and other fire departments in the M.D.

Upon dissolution, ownership of the fire hall and equipment would transfer to the M.D.

The M.D. would continue to provide fire and rescue services to Kinuso and area from the Kinuso fire hall. Kinuso residents would not be charged for fire department responses.

General Inquiries and Emergencies

The village office is the contact point for general inquiries, and water and sewer emergencies during regular business hours.

Residents can get information at the village office, by contacting one of the village councillors, and from notices distributed with the village utility bills.

For after-hours emergencies, residents call staff and council members. Typically, staff respond to an emergency call-out within one hour.

Upon dissolution the M.D. offices would be the contact point for general inquiries. The M.D. would operate the municipal office in Kinuso three days a week on a trial basis.

After hours emergency calls will be directed through the M.D.'s on-call system. The response time could be one hour or longer, depending on the location of the M.D.'s employee.

Grants

Currently, the village applies for a variety of grants based on village priorities.

Upon dissolution, Kinuso would no longer be eligible to apply directly for grants. However, for those grants based on population or assessment the M.D.'s allocation may increase. Projects and programs in Kinuso, potentially funded by grants, would be considered along with the needs of the rest of the M.D.

Library

Currently, the Kinuso Municipal Library Board operates the library located in Kinuso School. The village is a member of the Peace Library system. The village provides a per capita contribution to the library and to the regional library system.

In accordance with the *Alberta Libraries Act*, the Kinuso Library Board would dissolve at the time of the village dissolution. Assets owned by the library would become the M.D.'s property and those owned by the Peace Library System would remain with the system.

Upon dissolution, the M.D. of Big Lakes Library Board would assume responsibility for the Kinuso library and would continue the operation of the library in the Kinuso School.

The M.D. is also a member of the Peace Library system. The M.D. would provide a per capita contribution to the Kinuso library and to the regional library system.

Municipal Planning

The village has a land use bylaw dated September 1992. There are no formal planning services for the village. Development permits are approved by the village council.

Upon dissolution, Kinuso's land use bylaw would remain in effect until the M.D. repeals it and amends the M.D.'s bylaw to include Kinuso.

Planning services would be provided by the M.D. of Big Lakes planning department.

Development permits would be approved by the M.D.'s development officer or by the Municipal Planning Commission in accordance with the M.D.'s Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan.

Municipal Taxes

The village establishes municipal tax rates that generate funds to pay for programs and services provided to Kinuso residents and businesses, and to cover the village's debt payment.

Upon dissolution, taxes owed to the village would be owed to the M.D. Properties would be taxed at the M.D.'s tax rates.

Dissolution would not remove the obligation of Kinuso property owners to pay off the village's existing debt. The M.D. would include a special tax levy, as part of the property taxes levied in the hamlet of Kinuso, for the annual payment on Kinuso's existing debt.

Based on the assessed value of property, as reported in the village's 2008 tax rate bylaw, in 2008, the special tax levy rate placed on Kinuso property to fund the annual debenture payment of \$7,823 would have been 0.851 mills.

The M.D.'s 2008 combined tax rate (including the special tax levy for debt) for residential properties is approximately 65 per cent less than the village's tax rate and for non-residential properties, the tax rate is approximately 40 per cent less.

For a comparison of the village's and the M.D.'s 2008 property tax, refer to Tables 1 and 2.

Municipal Tax Due Dates and Penalty Schedule

Village property taxes are due in the year they are levied and are payable by August 31.

On September 1, a penalty of 10 per cent and on October 15, a penalty of seven per cent is levied on unpaid current taxes. On January 1 of the following year, a further penalty of 15 per cent is levied on all unpaid taxes.

Upon dissolution, Kinuso property owners would receive a combined assessment and property tax notice from the M.D. Property taxes would be subject to the M.D.'s due dates and penalties. Property taxes would be due June 30.

On July 1, a penalty of 7.5 per cent would be levied on unpaid current taxes. On January 1 of the following year, a further penalty 7.5 per cent would be levied on all tax arrears

Road Construction and Maintenance

The village provides for the construction and maintenance of the road system.

Centre Street and the east portion of Railway Avenue are paved. Other roads are gravel with an asphalt top layer for dust control. The roads are graded as required.

Upon dissolution, the M.D. would assume care, control, and management of Kinuso roadways. Road maintenance would be in accordance with the M.D.'s road maintenance standards.

The road surface in hamlets is either pavement or gravel with an oil mixture surface for dust control.

Snow Clearance from Roads

The village clears snow from roadways as soon as a major snowfalls end.

The M.D. clears snow from main roads within a day after a major snowfall and other roads as resources allow.

Snow Clearance from Sidewalks

Although, the village has a sidewalk snow clearance policy that states residents are to remove snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property, village staff clears the snow from sidewalks and driveways with the village bobcat following major snowstorms.

Upon dissolution, the sidewalk snow clearance policy would remain in place in Kinuso until Big Lakes replaces or repeals it.

Currently, M.D. staff do not clear snow from sidewalks in hamlets.

Utility Billing

Village residents can pay utility bills by cash, cheque, and through the interac at the village office. The village sends out bills monthly for utility services

Upon dissolution, the M.D. would be responsible for utility billing. Payment by cash, cheque, or interac is accepted. Utility bills are sent out every two months.

Solid Waste Management: Garbage Collection and Recycling

The village and M.D. are members of the High Prairie and District Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. The authority operates the regional landfill facility south of Enilda, the transfer stations, including the Faust/Kinuso transfer station, and manages the recycling program.

Currently, the village provides weekly garbage pick-up and takes the garbage to the Faust/Kinuso transfer station.

Upon dissolution, as in the other hamlets, the M.D. would not provide curbside garbage pick up. Kinuso residents would take their domestic garbage to the Faust/Kinuso transfer station themselves.

Commercial ventures would need to arrange garbage pick up with a private enterprise. The Faust/Kinuso transfer station only accepts domestic garbage.

The regional authority would continue to provide the recycling program in Kinuso.

As of October 2007, the Kinuso monthly garbage and recycle utility rates are as follows:

Property	Rate
Residential	\$14.00
Small Commercial	\$14.00
Large Commercial	\$77.00

There are no direct costs to M.D. residents for garbage or recycling. The M.D. funds solid waste management services through property taxes.

Water Treatment and Distribution

The village owns and operates the Kinuso water treatment plant and distribution system pursuant to the Code of Practice issued by Alberta Environment.

Currently, Kinuso receives water from the M.D.'s water treatment plant in Faust. The village treats the water at the Kinuso water treatment plant before distribution to users.

The village treatment plant is on land leased from the Swan River First Nation. The band has informed the village that when the lease, for use of the land, expires in 2013, it will not be renewed.

Swan River First Nation owns a water treatment plant located close to the village, which receives water from the Faust water treatment plant.

Upon dissolution, ownership of Kinuso's water treatment plant and distribution system and the lease agreement would transfer to the M.D. of Big Lakes. The M.D. would enter into discussions with the Swan River First Nation regarding the future of a treated water supply for Kinuso.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The village owns and operates the Kinuso wastewater lift stations and collection system within the village boundaries pursuant to the Code of Practice issued by Alberta Environment.

The village has an agreement with the Swan River First Nation for treatment of the wastewater at the band's sewage lagoon.

Upon dissolution, ownership of the wastewater infrastructure and the agreement for wastewater treatment services would transfer to the M.D.

Water and Wastewater Utility Rates

As of October 2007, the village's monthly water and sewer utility rates are as follows:

Residential	First 5000 gallons	Additional 1000 gallons
Water	\$43.50	\$8.70
Sewer	\$23.95	\$4.79
Small Commercial	First 5000 gallons	Additional 1000 gallons
Water	\$73.80	\$8.70
Sewer	\$19.25	\$4.79
Large Commercial	First 10,000 gallons	Additional 1000 gallons
Water	\$87.00	\$7.70
Sewer	\$47.85	\$4.24

The M.D. of Big Lakes utility rates are the same for all users.

- Water is \$2.30 per cubic meter and the minimum two month water consumption is 10 cubic meters. This would be a monthly minimum charge of \$11.50 for 5 cubic meters.
 - o \$2.30 per cubic meter is equivalent to \$10.45 for 1000 gallons or \$52.27 for 5000 gallons and \$104.54 for 10,000 gallons.
- Sewer is 50 per cent of the cost of water: \$1.15 per cubic metre. This would be a monthly minimum charge of \$5.75 for 5 cubic metres.
 - o This would be equivalent to \$5.23 for 1000 gallons or \$26.14 for 5000 gallons.

M.D. utility rates may be adjusted from time to time depending on a cost analysis of providing services.

The following table gives a comparison of the village and M.D. utility rates for water and sewer.

Water and Sewer Rates Comparison based on monthly water usage - 5,000 gallons for Residential and Small Commercial; and 10,000 gallons for Large Commercial			
Utility		Village	M.D.
Water	Residential	\$43.50	\$52.27
	Small Commercial	\$73.80	\$52.27
	Large Commercial	\$87.00	\$104.54
Sewer	Residential	\$23.95	\$26.14
	Small Commercial	\$19.25	\$26.14
	Large Commercial	\$47.85	\$52.28

Village Office and Services

The village owns the office building, which also houses the public works shop.

The office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition to conducting its regular business, the village provides the following services to residents on a fee for services basis: faxing, photocopying, electronic filing of land title transfers, and the commissioning of oaths.

The village also provides a number of other services for the community. These include: accounting services for the Kinuso Recreation Board, management of the Heart River Housing facilities in Kinuso (rent collection, move-ins and move-outs, minor maintenance, and snow clearance,) and operation of the Kinuso Grey Hound Station.

Upon dissolution, ownership of village facilities and agreements with the village would transfer to the M.D. of Big Lakes. The M.D. would operate the Kinuso office three days a week on a trial basis. Select municipal services would be available.

The M.D. would seek a business to operate the Kinuso Greyhound Station, and would enter into discussions with Heart River Housing regarding the future management of their facilities in Kinuso.

Table 1
Kinuso Residential Property Tax Comparison
2008 Municipal and School Taxes

Note: This table shows the changes that could be seen for three actual residential properties in Kinuso if the village were to dissolve. Property taxes may not be the only financial cost associated with living in Kinuso that would change. Utility rates could change and additional fees may be considered for services that the M.D. of Big Lakes does not provide in hamlets. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Kinuso.

<u>Village of Kinuso</u>		<u>M.D. of Big Lakes</u>	
Municipal	15.87	Municipal	3.000
School Tax	2.80	School Tax	<u>2.766</u>
Seniors Foundation	<u>0.10</u>		
Total	18.77	Total	5.766
		Levy for Existing (Village/ Town) Debt	0.851
2008 Comparative Tax Rate:	18.77		6.617

Note: The M.D. includes the Seniors Foundation requisition in their municipal tax rate.

If Kinuso remains a village

Actual 2008 residential property taxes levied on three properties in Kinuso based on the 2008 residential tax rate:

	Assessment		Village Tax Rate			Kinuso Property Taxes
Property 1	\$36,230	x	18.77 mills	x	0.001 =	\$680
Property 2	\$118,990	x	18.77 mills	x	0.001 =	\$2,233
Property 3	\$209,850	x	18.77 mills	x	0.001 =	\$3,938

If Kinuso dissolves

Estimated residential property taxes for the same three properties based on the 2008 M.D.'s residential tax rate plus the special levy for the annual payment on Kinuso's existing debt:

	Assessment		M.D. Tax Rate		Special Levy for Existing Village Debt		Estimated M. D. of Big Lakes Property Taxes
Property 1	\$36,230	x	(5.766 mills	+	0.851 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$240
Property 2	\$118,990	x	(5.766 mills	+	0.851 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$787
Property 3	\$209,850	x	(5.766 mills	+	0.851 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$1,389

Table 2
Kinuso Non-residential Property Tax Comparison
2008 Municipal and School Taxes

Note: This table shows the changes that could be seen for three actual non-residential properties in Kinuso if the village were to dissolve. Property taxes may not be the only financial cost that would change. Utility rates could change, and additional fees may be considered for services that the M.D. of Big Lakes does not provide in hamlets. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Kinuso.

<u>Village of Kinuso</u>		<u>M.D. of Big Lakes</u>	
Municipal	23.07	Municipal	11.500
School Tax	5.52	School Tax	<u>4.873</u>
Seniors Foundation	<u>0.25</u>		
Total	28.84	Total	16.373
		Levy for Existing Village Debt	0.851
2008 Comparative Tax Rate:	28.84		17.224

Note: The M.D. includes the Seniors Foundation requisition in their municipal tax rate.

If Kinuso remains a village

Actual 2008 non-residential property taxes levied on three properties in Kinuso based on the 2008 non-residential tax rate:

	Assessment		Village Tax Rate			Kinuso Property Taxes
Property 1	\$82,630	x	28.84 mills	x	0.001 =	\$2,383
Property 2	\$106,640	x	28.84 mills	x	0.001 =	\$3,075
Property 3	\$285,830	x	28.84 mills	x	0.001 =	\$8,243

If Kinuso dissolves

Estimated non-residential property taxes for the same three properties based on the 2008 M.D.'s non-residential tax rate plus the special levy for the annual payment on Kinuso's existing debt:

	Assessment		M.D. Tax Rate		Special Levy for Existing Village Debt		Estimated M.D. of Big Lakes Property Taxes
Property 1	\$82,630	x	(16.373 mills	+	0.851 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$1,423
Property 2	\$106,640	x	(16.373 mills	+	0.851 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$1,837
Property 3	\$285,830	x	(16.373 mills	+	0.851 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$4,923

Notes

Notes

How do I get more information?

A public meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Kinuso Agricultural Hall**, on **Swan Avenue**, to discuss the information in the dissolution study report. Village residents will be mailed a notice of the public meeting and are encouraged to attend.

At the meeting, residents will have an opportunity to ask questions in regards to the content of report, and to provide feedback to be forwarded to the Minister for his consideration.

Will there be a vote on dissolution?

Yes. A non-binding vote on the question of dissolution will take place on **Tuesday, May 26, 2009, between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.** in the **Kinuso Senior Centre on 2nd Street**.

The question on the ballot will be:

“Are you in favour of dissolving the Village of Kinuso to become part of the Municipal District of Big Lakes?”

Alberta Municipal Affairs must administer the vote in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- At least 18 years of age;
- A Canadian citizen;
- A resident of Alberta for the 6 months immediately preceding the vote; and
- A resident of the Village of Kinuso on the day of the vote.

When registering to vote, residents need to know the **street address or legal land description** of their residence in the Village of Kinuso. A mailing address is not sufficient.

What happens next?

The Minister of Municipal Affairs will make a recommendation about whether or not the village should dissolve.

In making his recommendation, the Minister considers this report, the views of the village and the M.D. councils, the feedback gathered at the public meeting, and the result of the non-binding vote.

What will happen if the village dissolves?

If the Minister recommends dissolution to the Provincial Cabinet, and Cabinet agrees, the existing village council and administration would work with the M.D. council and administration to wind up the village's affairs by the recommended dissolution date.

What will happen if the village does not dissolve?

The Village of Kinuso will maintain its status as an incorporated municipality. The village's council will continue to be responsible for providing governance, levying taxes, and providing municipal services to the village.

For further information, contact:

Coral Callioux or Linda Reynolds of Alberta Municipal Affairs,
by phone, dial 310-0000 (toll free) and entering 780-427-2225

or write to Alberta Municipal Affairs, Attention: Village of Kinuso Dissolution Study
17th floor, Commerce Place, 10155 – 102 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4L4